

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12
By Davis

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charles T. Rhyne, Jr. of
Cocke County.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of
this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Charles T. Rhyne,
Jr., a leading industrialist, banker and citizen of Cocke County; and

WHEREAS, born on September 25, 1922, Mr. Rhyne was the son of the late Charles T.
and Motelle Rufty Rhyne; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhyne, Sr. moved to Cocke County in 1918 and joined Spiegle Lumber
Company in 1926. The company, which later became Rhyne Lumber Company, celebrated its
fiftieth anniversary in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Charles Rhyne, Jr. attended Cocke County High School and received a
degree in architectural engineering from North Carolina State College, where he was a highly
regarded and popular student; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, he returned to Newport to assist his father in operating
Rhyne Lumber Company and many other Cocke County businesses; and

WHEREAS, Charles Jr. served successfully as president and chief executive officer of
Rhyne Lumber Company, and as president of Wood Products Company, Inc., Newport
Manufacturing Company, Inc., Newport Builders, and R and W Properties, Inc.; under his
dynamic leadership, each of these exemplary companies grew and prospered; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, he assumed the duties of president of the Hardwood Dimension
Manufacturing Association, did an admirable job and was re-elected president the next year;

35764124

35764124

000880

00088026

and

WHEREAS, During his brilliant tenure, he signed a contract authorizing a \$100,000 study of the hardwood dimensions industry by the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election as president, Mr. Rhyne had been very active in the affairs of the hardwood dimensions industry and the Hardwood Dimension Manufacturers Association, having served with distinction on its board, as vice-president for two years and as chairman of several of its most important committees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhyne led National Bank of Newport as chairman for nearly two decades, from February, 1974, until his retirement two years ago; despite illness, he continued to serve the bank as vice-chairman; and

WHEREAS, a true representative of the "Volunteer State", he generously contributed his time, expertise and energy to a large number of civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhyne astutely served on the board of directors of the Newport Federal Savings and Loan Association, the Smoky Mountain Country Club, the Newport Rescue Squad, the Newport/Cocke County Economic Development Commission, the Tennessee Builders Association, the Keep Tennessee Green Association, and the Great Smoky Mountain Conservation Association and was also a valued member of the Newport/Cocke County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, he joined the Newport Utilities Board in April, 1975, and was elected the board's secretary; he served as the board's chairman from April 1983 until his death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhyne evinced his deep faith in God as an active member of the Newport First United Methodist Church and served diligently on the church's board of trustees; and

WHEREAS, he was deeply involved in state and local politics, serving as chairman of the Cocke County Democratic Party and as a trusted advisor to several Tennessee governors; and

WHEREAS, in tribute to his good friend, National Bank of Newport President Keith Ketterman said: "Mr. Rhyne was not only a leader, but an advisor and friend. His many

achievements are displayed in the many people with whom he worked. He was respected and liked by all who knew him. Mr. Rhyne saw his work at the bank, in industry, and the utilities board as ways he could contribute to the growth of the community. Those contributions were instrumental in the progress of our county during the last several decades. His role in local history will be immeasurable. His contributions were both significant and countless, and all these things well reflected the personality of our bank”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhyne, is survived by his wife, Frances, and three children: Sally Pierce and Terry Mullins, both of Brentwood, and Charles T. Rhyne III of Hilton Head, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to honor the memory of one of Tennessee’s most successful and beloved citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Charles T. Rhyne, Jr. and express our deepest condolences to his family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution, with this final resolving clause deleted, be prepared and presented.